

BLACKABY'S EXPERIENCING GOD

October 3, 2000 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) –

The following is from the introduction to a critique of Henry Blackaby's popular study course Experiencing God by Pastor Gary Gilley, Southern View Chapel, Springfield, Illinois:

In 1990, a workbook based upon the teachings of Henry Blackaby (with co-author Claude King), a Southern Baptist pastor and conference speaker, was published. The workbook, Experiencing God, has since sold over two million copies, been translated into 40 languages, and has been taken as a 13-week course by approximately 16% of all Southern Baptists (SBC). By some estimates, this translates to about half of all active members of the SBC denomination. But, according to a spokesman for the SBC Sunday School Board, churches from many other denominations have also gone through the "Experiencing God" course, including Roman Catholic churches. Furthermore, there are now youth and pre-teen editions of the workbook, as well as videos and a leader study guide.

The hardback version of Experiencing God (subtitled Knowing and Doing the Will of God, LifeWay Press, Nashville, Tennessee) is an expanded and modified form of the workbook (all comments will be based on the hardback edition). It was published in 1994 and already has sold 250,000 copies. In addition, thousands have attended "Experiencing God Weekends" and "Experiencing God Weekends for Couples." These weekends are usually sponsored by the SBC, but are open to all denominations. EVEN THE JESUITS AT BOSTON COLLEGE HAD SCHEDULED A 1997 SPRING "EXPERIENCING GOD" CONVERSATION SERIES.

Blackaby's book and seminars are everything that should be detested in so-called evangelicalism today. They take a purely mystical approach to Christian living, and by necessity, undermine and distort the precious Word of God. This examination of Blackaby's work is for the purpose of not only exposing it (many outside of Blackaby's Southern Baptist Convention have never heard of Blackaby), but also because it is a clear representation of the state of evangelicalism in America.

Pastor Gilley's analysis of Blackaby's Experiencing God, plus other critiques of this popular study course, can be accessed through the following web page operated by the Biblical Discernment Ministries:

http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/BookReviews/exp_god/

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